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The Eastern Supervisors' Conference

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Treasurer.

Plans for the 1923 meeting of the Eastern Music Supervisors' Conference are rapidly maturing. The next convention will be held in Newark, N. J., March 6-10, 1923 with the Robert Treat hotel as headquarters.

It has been the custom since the inception of the Eastern Conference to hold the meeting in early May, but in view of the large and growing objection to such a late date which frequently interferes with plans for late concerts, graduations and other school activities, the Executive Board voted unanimously to hold the 1923 meeting in early March, with the possibility of an even earlier date for succeeding meetings.

A great deal of interest has been manifested since the announcement of Newark as the abiding place of the next Conference. Newark as a convention city is nearly ideal. It is a city of distinction of about a half a million people and being a short distance from New York is in a great center of population. Moreover it is available to supervisors, both north and south, in the best sense.

As far as the schools are concerned Newark is well equipped and on account of congestion of school population, a common condition these days, it has had the courage to try out what might be called for lack of a better term, progressive ideas of educational organization. In the solution of these many ever present problems Newark is still at work. Therefore this phase of school work will of itself offer unusual opportunity for observation on the part of the visiting supervisor. As

to the physical comfort of the Conference members the Robert Treat hotel will provide more than usually comfortable and attractive accommodations.

The opportunity to visit Newark was offered through the invitation of Miss Louise Westwood, Director of Music, who, with her able corps of assistants have entered with characteristic enthusiasm on the arrangement of the details so necessary to a successful conference. The outline of the program is already under the consideration of the Program Committee, which will make known its content at an early date.

It may confidently be predicted that the 1923 meeting will lack nothing of enthusiasm to make it a helpful and inspiring occasion. Other details will be announced as soon as definite plans are available.

THE ROCHESTER (N. Y.) PLAN

CHARLES H. MILLER,

Director of Music.

In this rapidly changing era, it is necessary for Supervisors of Music to understand the great movements in musical education, and especially those that give promise of important developments which may eventually affect the whole country.

Several requests have come to us to write an account of the work that is developing in Rochester, but several reasons have prevented. In the first place, important steps are following each other so rapidly that any article, however completely it describes the situation at a given time, would be considerably out of harmony with the

facts a few months later. For the sake of our cause in general, however, a brief story follows:

A systematic plan is being carried forward to make a musical city out of a typical American city of over 300,000 population. Perhaps in no other large city is such an extensive effort being made in music education.

Five years ago, the city had a small music school, housed in an old dwelling with very few teachers. A symphony orchestra of about forty local musicians gave six or seven concerts a year without adequate support. Another orchestra, composed mostly of amateurs, played four free concerts a year to less than half a house each time. Recitals and artist concerts were few. The public schools employed seven teachers of music. Four of these supervised the grades, four taught in junior and senior high schools and three were special music teachers in grade schools. Many good things had been accomplished—standards of tone quality and interpretation had been established—the condition of music in the schools was similar to that in other cities.

Today a great school of music, costing millions of dollars, is nearing completion, part of it being finished and in use. A large faculty of music teachers, some of international reputation, are instructing one thousand students. The school is more completely equipped than any other school. It will accommodate 2,500 after September first. A great orchestra is provided for, which will be organized within a few months. Its home will be in the main auditorium, which seats 3,300. Another large orchestra will play the best music in connection with motion pictures. One day each week will be given to concerts. A recital hall, containing 800 seats, contains a fine organ to be used by Bonnet for his master classes. It will be also used for chamber music and the more important student recitals.

Three years ago, a gift of over three hundred instruments for use in the public schools, enabled us to organize several bands and orchestras in all the high schools and junior high schools. Each Saturday ten of the leading teachers of band and orchestral instruments are busy instructing the players in small groups on their individual instruments and in larger ensemble groups. Violin teachers instruct in grade schools during school hours. The instrumental organizations play frequently for school events and for conventions and other meetings interested in education.

The Board of Education has decided to provide all schools with special music teachers in all grades above the third. At present there are thirty-seven full time music teachers. Within a few months nearly all the seventh, eighth and ninth grades of the city will be taught in junior high schools. **Two new buildings** are nearing completion. Each one of these will have three regular music rooms, besides the assembly hall—one of these rooms will provide for violin, piano and voice classes, another room will accommodate seventy-five in chorus or music appreciation, and a room forty feet by eighty feet is arranged in terraces for a band or orchestra of one hundred and sixty (160), or a chorus of two hundred and fifty (250).

One man who loves music and believes in its importance to humanity has made possible these great advantages to the community. I refer to George Eastman, inventor of the kodak. When he first decided to undertake the music education of our city, he realized that the public schools would be the greatest factor to consider, and he therefore decided to give to the schools a large place in the plan. Fortunately, we have a superintendent and Board of Education that are progressive and keenly alive to the value of good music. There is close co-operation between the public schools and

the University, of which the Eastman Music School is a part.

Our Music Department is carrying on all the different phases of work that are found in the most progressive schools. Among these may be mentioned, Music Appreciation, Class lessons in all instruments, Glee Clubs, Music Memory Contests, Piano Classes, using a special clavier manufactured according to our specifications, Voice Instruction in small classes, Theory, Harmony and Appreciation in high school, Vocational Classes in Continuation School, and various other activities.

The Hochstein Settlement Music School provides good private instruction at a small fee for over three hundred children who are considered talented enough for entrance and who are not able to pay the regular fees in the Eastman School.

The public schools plan to have weekly concerts in each school when we secure good pianos. These concerts will be held just after the close of school, and occasionally in the evening. In this way, we expect to take good music to a large number of both children and adults who would not go to a regular concert which was not held in their own school. The pressure of an over-crowded curriculum makes it very difficult in most schools to present very much music to which the children are to listen and enjoy. The after-school concert seems to provide the best means.

With all the different phases of work just mentioned, it can be readily seen that the director of music must plan very carefully to prevent superficial work in some activities. Our remedy for this is to have specialists, each one being responsible for only one or two phases of work. Of course this is made possible by the large number of music teachers we now have.

We are looking forward to the time when we may entertain the meeting of the National Conference.

THE JOURNAL FUND

The Journal still needs your assistance. If you contributed a quarter, a half dollar, a dollar, or even two dollars last year, do not feel that you are paid up for life. The Journal costs you nothing. Is it worth anything to you? Would you be willing to pay a subscription fee of \$1.00 or \$2.00 if required to do so? Surely, you would! Then sit down and send a check to the Editor today. If you are not a member of the Conference the least you can do for the support of the cause is to help support the Journal. **DO IT NOW!**

THE CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS AT CLEVELAND

The facilities for taking care of the large number of people who attend the annual Conferences have not always been adequate, but we are assured that in Cleveland there will be room for everyone. The Statler Hotel is to be headquarters for the Conference, and it is understood that the entire building will be turned over to the Conference.

Besides the Statler, there are several other hotels which are as large or larger, within a short distance of headquarters. It is expected that more than 2000 will register for the Conference and it is good to feel that there will not be the grand rush for rooms that usually accompanies the first hours of the session. It is suggested, however, that those who are planning to attend, should engage rooms well in advance of the date.



THE STATLER